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ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

James C. Sleigh,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

and

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

David J. Graham
M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1956

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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEES

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor A.G. Cutmore (Chairman)

Councillor M.M. Morrison (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor W.E. Connell

Councillor E. Fricker

Councillor C.W. Lane

Councillor W. Matthews

Councillor W. Pitt

Councillor T. Sparrow

Councillor P.J. Wood

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

JAMES C. SLEIGH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

St.ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL: Staff -

DAVID J. GRAHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector
Cleansing Superintendent

W.A. BEERE, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector

A.G. PAINE
Chief Clerk

Mrs. D.G. BURTON
Shorthand Typist/Clerk
(Resigned 30.11.1956)

Mrs. A. ECKSTEIN
Shorthand Typist/Clerk
(From 17.12.1956)

Health Department,
15, Hatfield Road,
St.Albans.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the City of St.Albans and the Chairman and Councillors of the St.Albans Rural District Council.

Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the City of St.Albans and the St.Albans Rural District for 1956.

The incidence of infectious diseases was extremely low, as will be seen from the details supplied in the report. There was, however, one very disturbing feature to which no solution has yet been found, that is a prolonged outbreak, which is not yet over, of Winter Sickness at one of the schools in the City. I have commented more fully in regard to it in the City report.

The immunisation rate for Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is, as one would expect with no interruptions from poliomyelitis, very much better, in fact the Diphtheria rate is over 100% and the Whooping Cough rate 94%. It should be realised, of course, that this is due partially to catching up the back lag of immunisations which had to be postponed in 1955.

To you, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to record my sincere thanks for the consideration and help you have at all times shown to me, and to my staff I wish to record my sincere thanks for their able and conscientious performance of the duties.

I am also deeply indebted to the chief clerk, secretary and staff in the Divisional Health Office for their assistance in preparation of the statistics for this report and for the many extra duties carried out by them during the year, which were actually outside their Divisional Health Office duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. SLEIGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Section A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

	St.Albans City	St.Albans R.D.C.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	46,660	31,540
Area (in acres)	5,129	32,084
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:-		
Dwelling Houses	13,935	7,569
Shops with living accommodation	312	87
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	76	60
TOTAL	14,323	7,716
Rateable Value	£811,026	£339,206

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	St.Albans City			St.Albans R.D.C.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Live Births - Legitimate	375	353	728	220	220	440
Illegitimate	17	16	33	6	9	15
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population		16.31			14.43	
Stillbirths	10	2	12	5	5	10
Deaths	241	272	513	249	360	609
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		10.99			19.31	

Deaths from Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion

Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 (Total live and Stillbirths)
-	-	1	2.15

Deaths of Infants Under 1 Year of Age

	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	9	3	12	5	4	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-	-
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All Infants per 1,000 live births		15.77			19.78	
Combined Rate			17.27			
Neonatal Death Rate		14.45			8.79	

The Following Table gives the Death, Birth and Infant Mortality Rates since 1947:-

Year	Death Rate		Birth Rate		Infant Mortality Rate	
	St.Albans City	St. Albans R.D.C.	St.Albans City	St.Albans R.D.C.	St. Albans City	St.Albans R.D.C.
1947	12.6	9.2	17.9	16.5	33.0	54.0
1948	10.2	6.98	17.2	14.54	19.2	18.1
1949	11.5.	8.2	18.2	14.8	13.1	22.2
1950	11.3	7.7	16.3	13.2	33.3	22.5
1951	12.0	7.7	16.4	13.3	27.6	29.1
1952	10.6	6.8	16.5	12.8	27.1	8.1
1953	11.52	18.05	15.60	14.46	29.87	28.64
1954	10.83	17.74	15.43	14.48	18.54	16.59
1955	10.32	19.10	15.93	15.16	15.23	15.28
1956	10.99	19.31	16.31	14.43	15.77	19.78
1902	10.9		21.4		67.4	
1901	13.0		21.6		135.4	

Causes of Death

	St.Albans City		St.Albans R.D.C.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3	2	
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	1	1	
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-	-	
4. Diptheria	-	-	-	-	
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	
8. Measles	-	-	-	-	
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	2	-	
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	7	8	4	3)	
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	14.	3	7	5)	Cancer
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	13	-	6)	182
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	7	-	7)	
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	27	36	18	17)	
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2	2	1	
16. Diabetes	1	-	-	1	
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	22	51	25	47	
18. Coronary disease, angina	48	30	42	25)	Heart
19. Hypertension	10	13	7	11)	Dis-
20. Other heart disease	18	39	34	77)	ease
21. Other circulatory disease	20	21	14	30	354
22. Influenza	-	2	2	1	
23. Pneumonia	17	10	38	60	
24. Bronchitis	14	5	11	14	
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	8.	1	3	2	
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	4	4	-	3	
27. Gastritis and enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-	2	2	
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	1	3	2	
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	1	-	
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-	-	1	
31. Congenital malformations	2	1	2	4	
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	11	23	31	
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	3	3	1	
34. All other accidents	5	6	2	5	
35. Suicide	1	4	-	1	
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	241	272	249	360	1,122

Once again, the greatest single cause of death was, excluding heart disease, cancer. "Heart Disease" was chiefly a normal termination of life in old age - something which is inevitable, and most of the354 cases would be more reasonably classified as "Old Age".

Vital Statistics, 1956 - England and Wales

Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns of Registrar General.

Births

Live Births (per 1,000 total population)	15.7
Stillbirths (per 1,000 total live and still births)	23.0

Deaths

All Causes (per 1,000 total population)	11.7
Infants under 1 year (per 1,000 related live births)	23.8
Maternal Mortality (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	0.56
Neonatal Death Rate (per 1,000 related live births)	16.9

This table is included to enable comparisons to be made between local rates and national rates, but in dealing with the relatively low numbers from which local rates are calculated, one must be very cautious about drawing conclusions.

Number of Deaths and Death Rate from Tuberculosis and Cancer

1956

The provisional numbers of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1956 are as follows:

	Number			Rate		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Person
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3,533	1,318	4,851	164	57	109
Other Tuberculosis	271	251	522	13	11	12
Cancer of lung and bronchus	15,615	2,570	18,185	726	111	407
Other Cancer	33,317	41,199	74,516	1548	1780	1668

ANALYSIS OF INFANT MORTALITY
(Combined figures for two authorities)

Cause of Death	Age at Death									
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 wks	2 and under 3 wks	3 and under 4 wks	Total under 1 mth	1 and under 3 mths	3 and under 6 mths	6 and under 9 mths	9 and under 12mths	Total under 1 yr.
Prematurity	6	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	7
Gastro Enteritis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	4	-	-	-	4	2	1	1	1	9
Marasmus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.B.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Difficult Labour ...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other Causes ...	3	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	4
All Causes	14	1	-	-	15	2	2	1	1	21

This table shows the marked change that has occurred recently in the cause of infant deaths. Prematurity and Congenital Malformations have remained fairly constant but the great killers of years not so long ago, Gastro Enteritis Marasmus and Pneumonia, show no deaths at all this year.

Section B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics.

Bricket Wood - The Social Club, Oak Avenue.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2-4 pm.
(Doctor attends 2nd)

Minor Ailments treated between 8.30 and 9am. at Nurses Cottage 139, Mount Pleasant Lane. (Telephone Garston 2183)

Colney Heath - The Pavilion

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4pm.
Minor Ailments treated in children's own homes or at local sch

Harpenden - Memorial Hospital, (Harpenden 3696)

Ante-Natal (Booking) - 2nd and 4th Mondays, 2 - 4pm.

40, Luton Road, (Harpenden 40)

Ophthalmic	-	1st and 3rd Mondays, 11am - 12 noon. (By appointment)
Minor Ailments	-	Wednesdays, 9am - 12 noon (Doctor attends)
Speech Therapy	-	Wednesdays, 9.30am - 12.30pm.
Infant Welfare	-	1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 1.45 - 4.30pm.
Dental	-	Mondays, 2 - 4pm. Thursdays, 10.30am - 12 noon; 2 - 4pm. (By appointment)

Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 1.45 - 4.30pm.

London Colney - Primary School, Aledander Road.

Minor Ailments - Fridays, 9.30am - 12 noon (Doctor attends 2nd and 4th)

Infant Welfare - Thursdays, 1.45 - 4.30pm.

Redbourn - Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4.30pm.

Minor Ailments treated 8.15 - 8.30am., and 6.15 - 6.45pm.
at Nurse's residence, 18, Bettespol Meadows (Redbourn 251)

St.Albans - Village Hall, Park Street.

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Mondays 1.30 - 4pm.

St. Luke's Hall, Camp Road.

Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.-4pm.

Mandeville J.M.I. School

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2 -4pm.

Margaret Wix Health Annexe - High Oaks (St.Albans 56994)

Infant Welfare	-	Wednesdays, 1.30 - 4pm.
Speech Therapy	-	Mondays, 9.30 - 12.30pm. Thursday 9.30 - 12.30pm.
Dental	-	Tuesday am. (2nd and 4th in month)* Wednesday am.(1st and 3rd " ")* Thursday pm. (weekly)* Friday am. and pm. (weekly)* Saturday am. (alternate)*

* By appointment

Wellington Court, Bricket Road (St.Albans 55002 and 54926)

Immunisation and Minor Ailment	-	Mondays, 9am - 12 noon (Doctor attends)
Dental	-	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Saturdays, 9.30am - 12 noon (alternate) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 2-5pm.
Orthoptic	-	Thursday and Friday, 9am. - 12noon; 2 - 4.30pm.
Ophthalmic	-	Thursday and Friday, 10am - 12noon Monday, 9.30 - 10.30am.

Wellington Court - cont'd.

Speech	-	Tuesday, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 1.30 - 4.30pm)
Ante-Natal	-	Wednesday, 9.30 - 11.30am. Monday, 2 - 4.30pm (Midwives session)
Infant Welfare	-	Tuesday and Friday 1.30 - 4pm. (Doctor attends Friday) Foods issued Tuesday and Friday.

Bricket House, Bricket Road (St.Albans 55431)

Orthopaedic	-	Monday, Wednesday Friday, all day Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 2nd Friday, pm.)

Osterhills Hospital, Normandy Road (St.Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women)	-	Tuesday 5-7pm; Friday 2-4pm.
V.D. (Men)	-	Tuesday 5-7pm; Friday 10am - 12noon
Post Natal	-	Friday, 11am.
Chest Clinic	-	Tuesday, 2pm. (children) Monday, 2pm. (St.Albans patients)

Hill End Hospital (St.Albans 55555)

Child Guidance - Monday to Friday, am. and pm.

<u>Sandridge</u> - The Parish Hall

Infant Weighing - 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 2.30 - 3.30pm.
Minor Ailments treated between 4 and 5pm. at nurse's residence, 2, Reynolds Crescent (St.Albans 54985) or in children's own homes if necessary.

<u>Shenley</u>

Minor Ailments treated at school.

<u>Wheathampstead</u> - Mead Hall, East Lane

Infant Welfare - 2nd and 4th Fridays, 2.30 - 4pm.
(Doctor attends 3pm)
Minor Ailments treated 8.30 - 9am. at Nurse's residence, 5, Brewhouse Hill, (Wheathampstead 3123)

National Health Service Act.

The Divisional Administration of the Health Services adminstered by the Local Health Authority, the County Council, continues to work very smoothly and an increasing amount of detailed administration is being passed out to Divisional Health Offices from Hertford.

The records available in the Divisional Health Office on Local Health Authority work are of the greatest value to me in my Local Sanitary Authority (Medical Officer of Health) work, especially in what is my most difficult job, assessing medical points for housing applications.

Every ambulance journey exceeding 50 miles outwards has to be sanctioned by me as Divisional Medical Officer, and I can assure you that the case is investigated very carefully indeed before consent is given.

Ambulance Service

I am indebted to Divisional Officer R. Hughes for the following information:

District of St. Albans
Year ending 31st December, 1956

Appended are details of calls dealt with during the last year.

	Ambulance	Utilicon	Total	Increase and Decrease over 1955
Accidents	614	7	621	- 49
Sudden Illness	225	3	228	+ 19
Maternity	356	-	356	- 63
Removals	9,586	10,262	19,848	- 485
Mileage	54,975	77,147	132,122	- 4,641

These figures show a slight but very welcome decrease compared with 1955.

Hospitals.

I am indebted to Mr. E.J. Burgess, Secretary, Mid-Herts. Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information:

The allocation of beds is as follows:

St. Albans City Hospital.

Surgical	87
Medical	66
Orthopaedic	20
Paediatric	25
Chronic Sick	78
Maternity	23
Gynaecological	26
Chest	31
Infectious Diseases	18
Private Wing:	
Section 5 Patients	4
Section 4 Beds	6
Total	384

School Medical Service

This service continues to work very smoothly, due largely to the help and co-operation received from Head Teachers. I have been very impressed by the interest taken by parents and in about 75% of the examinations, one of the parents has been present.

The innovation of calling parents up when their children are re-examined following a defect found at a previous examination has proved to be very valuable and is, I believe, thoroughly appreciated by the parents. The attendance of parents at such examinations is very good indeed. It was considered that this might overload the School Medical Officers, in that it would possibly take more time to deal with each individual case, but in practice we find that by calling the parents we do not have to call the children so often and this fully balances the apparent disadvantage.

Milk and Meals in Schools

These are of a very high standard and a well worth while investment. Washing facilities appear adequate in most cases and food preparation rooms and kitchens clean, though space is often limited.

Health Visiting

There are seventeen nurses doing health visiting in the St. Albans Division of Hertfordshire. They are employed for the visiting of persons in their homes for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, old persons, persons suffering from illness and expectant or nursing mothers, and as to the measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

Nursing Homes and Old People's Homes.

There are five Registered Nursing Homes in this area, and nine Registered Old People's Homes. All are regularly inspected.

Section C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

Drainage and Sewarage

See Chief Public Health Inspector's Report.

Swimming Baths

The public swimming baths in the area - one in the City and two in the Rural District - have at all times been well maintained. Continuous filtration and chlorination is carried out at all three and the bacteriological results which are checked frequently throughout the summer, have proved very satisfactory.

Public Baths

These have been going now for over four years and undoubtedly provide a much needed service. I have always emphasized that this service is a Public Health Service and cannot be expected to be financially self- supporting, but the increasing numbers using the baths suggest that the gap between income and e penditure will decrease but it will, I am sure, never close. To put up the charges would, I feel sure, increase not decrease the gap.

Mortuary

The following bodies were removed to the mortuary:-

Adult -	Males		51
	Females		38
Children -	Males		3
	Females		1
Number of Post Mortems			89

General Nutrition

Poor nutrition is rare and often is the result of fussing parents indulging in food fads. Underweight children often are of small birth weight, or have small parents.

Nursing in the Home.

The District Nursing Sisters are available for all cases of domiciliary nursing which includes Midwifery and General Nursing and in all cases where there is illness in the home and where a request is made personally or at the request of the doctor in attendance.

Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Herts County Council and provides domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over school age within the meaning of the Education Act, 1944.

The Organiser, who is a member of the Divisional Health Office staff, receives requests from doctors, health visitors,

midwives, hospital almoners and welfare organisations, but these requests must be backed up by a medical or nurse's certificate. No-one is denied help on financial grounds and every case can be assessed according to the family income.

The service is proving extremely popular. So much so, in fact, that we are unable to provide all the home help that is desired because we cannot get sufficient numbers of Home Helps. This is particularly difficult in the period Christmas - Easter when, of course, illness is at its height and one must remember that illness affects Home Helps as well as other members of the community.

Section D.

HOUSING

Rehousing is still the greatest problem confronting the two Councils. Both use a points scheme and in addition, all certificates from medical practitioners requesting priority for any of their patients are submitted to me as Medical Officer of Health. I have the power to allocate additional points on medical grounds without disclosing my reason for doing so, In extreme cases I also have the power of giving absolute priority, but this power I am very unwilling to use as, of course, if this power were abused it would ruin the whole points scheme, with which I am completely in favour.

The duty thus imposed on me is a very difficult one, and I have no doubt that on occasions I shall make mistakes, but I can assure both Councils that I shall do my utmost to make their housing scheme work as fairly as is humanly possible, bearing in mind the very large and urgent demand for houses.

Points are allotted independently of me for such conditions as overcrowding, etc. I therefore never give points for conditions which already attract points under the Housing points scheme.

As I warned both Councils at the time, additional houses have had to be added to those given in the report of last year to the Minister.

Section E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

Total No. of Outbreaks	No. of Cases	No. Of Deaths	Organisms or other Agents responsible with no. of out-breaks of each	Foods involved with no. of out breaks of each.
-	5	-	Salmonella Typhi-murium 3 Unknown 2	-

After most careful investigation it was impossible to trace the cause of these cases contracting food poisoning. This is only to be expected in dealing with such small numbers.

Section F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during 1956

	St. Albans City		St. Albans R.D.C.	
	Notified	Deaths	Notified	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	29	-	31	-
Whooping Cough	37	-	34	-
Measles	44	-	46	-
Pneumonia	14	-	2	-
Erysipelas	10	-	6	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	3	-
Infective Hepatitis	1	-	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-
" (Non Paralytic)	1	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	17	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever.	1	-	3	-

Tuberculosis

Cases on Register at 31st December, 1956

	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
St.Albans City	199 (186)	111 (107)	25 (26)	16 (19)	351 (338)
St.Albans R.D.	148 (134)	119 (108)	12 (13)	22 (20)	301 (275)
Totals	347 (320)	230 (215)	37 (39)	38 (39)	652 (613)

Figures at 31.12.55 are in brackets

The increases are, I believe, due to more intensive search for cases, e.g., Mass Radiography, and the better co-operation of other Local Authorities in notifying to us their cases moving into our district. I do not think the disease is, in fact, increasing.

Smallpox

There were no cases during 1956

Vaccination

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St.Albans Division, which comprises St.Albans City, St.Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of persons Vaccinated (or Re-vaccinated) during 1956:

Age at 31st December	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 & over	Total
Number vaccinated	1,157	94	38	35	20	1,344
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	12	24	83	119

Number of cases specially reported during period (age groups as above) NIL

Number of births registered for the St.Albans Division 1,935

Primary vaccination rate per 1,000 births 69.5

Of the total number of primary vaccinations (1,344), 569 were done at County Council Clinics.

The primary vaccination rate of 69.5 per 100 births is quite good, but it could be better.

I strongly advocate vaccination before the age of 1 year when the risks involved are negligible. Many people in later life find they must be vaccinated either to travel abroad or take up some employment where vaccination is insisted upon. The risks in vaccination in later years are much greater, except when primary vaccination has been done in infancy.

The great increase in air travel has also increased the risk of smallpox being brought into the country, as a case may be infected in, say, Egypt or India, and be here before the onset of the disease, whereas previously, by surface transport, the time involved in the journey ensured that the disease became apparent before landing in the United Kingdom.

Diphtheria

There were no cases reported in 1956

Immunisation against Diphtheria

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St.Albans Division, which comprises St.Albans City, St.Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for primary Immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents) in 1956			Total number of children who were given a secondary or re-inforcing injection (i.e., subsequent to a complete full course)
Age at date of final injection:			
Under 5	5 - 15	Total	
1,866	94	1,960	1,131

Number of births registered for the same area:	1,935
Primary immunisation rate per 100 births	101.3

The numbers shown include 1,648 children who received primary combined Whooping Cough - Diphtheria immunisation injections, and 312 children who received re-inforcing combined injections.

Whooping Cough

The following figures obtained from the Divisional Health Office relate to the St.Albans Division, which comprises St.Albans City, St.Albans R.D.C., Harpenden U.D.C. and Elstree R.D.C.

Number of children who completed a full course for Primary Immunisation in the Authority's area, (including temporary residents) in 1956

Age at date of final injection		Total
Under 5	5 - 15	
1,770	43	1,813

Primary Immunisation rate - 93.7%

These figures include 1,648 children who received a primary immunisation with a combined Whooping Cough - Diphtheria vaccine.

Several cases of Whooping Cough have occurred in children who have been immunised, but all such cases have been very mild indeed. We do not claim that whooping cough immunisation prevents whooping cough to anything like the extent that diphtheria immunisation prevents diphtheria, but it will prevent altogether the disease in many cases and in others, turn what is a very long, distressing and sometimes fatal disease into what could fairly be called a "Minor Ailment"

A report of the Medical Research Council early in 1957 suggests that there is a danger of converting a non-paralytic case of poliomyelitis into a paralytic one by using either the combined Diphtheria - Whooping Cough vaccine or an Alum Precipitated vaccine (A.P.T.) for Diphtheria. We are therefore, with very great regret, having to stop the use of the combined vaccine and also of A.P.T. for Diphtheria inoculations. This means that the total number of injections goes up from three to five and I do hope that this will not result in a serious fall in the immunisation rate for both Whooping Cough and Diphtheria. The present rates using the combined vaccine are very satisfactory (Diphtheria 101% of the total births, and Whooping Cough 94%) The 101% is admittedly a rather freak figure, due to catching up the back lag of 1955 when immunisations were held up by the prevalence of poliomyelitis.

I think it might be profitable for me to set down the recommended periods for all immunisation procedure, including vaccination. They are as follows:

Primary Vaccination against smallpox at 3 months of age.

First injection against Whooping Cough at 4 months of age.

Second injection at 5 months and third at 6 months.

First injection against Diphtheria at 7 months

Second injection at 8 - 12 months.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
43, Upper Lattimore Road,
ST. ALBANS.

May, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1956.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supplies of the area continue to receive close attention and a total of seventy-one samples were sent to the Public Health Service Laboratories at Luton for bacteriological examination.

Seven Water Undertakers supply in the St. Albans Rural District, namely -

The Barnet District Water Company,

The Colne Valley Water Company,

The Harpenden Water Company,

Borough of Hemel Hempstead,

Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company,

St. Albans Rural District Council,

The St. Albans Waterworks Company.

In addition, each of the following seven bodies provide an efficient piped supply to the dwelling houses on their Estate. -

All Saints Convent, London Colney,

Childwickbury Estate,

Gorhambury Estate and adjacent Crown Lands (plant operated by the Crown Commissioners),

Hanstead Estate, Bricket Wood,

HOUSING.

1.	Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders	34.
2.	Number of demolition or closing orders made -	
	(a) demolition orders	33.
	(b) closing orders	3.
3.	Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under sub-section 3 of Section II of the Housing Act, 1936	1.
4.	Number of houses demolished	13.

On the 31st December, 1955 the following three houses, which are the subject of demolition or clearance orders, were being used under licence for human habitation:-

9, Park Lane, Colney Heath.

Two wooden cottages at Lower Gustard Wood, Wheathampstead.

Council Houses.

Statistics prepared by Miss Sharpe, the Council's Housing Officer, are shown in Appendix I.

Moveable Dwellings.

Statistical Table in respect of moveable dwellings in the district is given in Appendix II.

NUISANCES.

Sixty six complaints of alleged nuisances were received and suitable action taken. In no case was it found necessary to serve a statutory notice to secure abatement.

REPLACEMENT OF PAILCLOSETS BY WATERCLOSETS.

The Council continued their policy of making contributions under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 towards the expenses reasonably incurred by the owners of buildings in the execution of necessary works in connection with the replacement of pailclosets by waterclosets.

During the year, 84 pailclosets were replaced. Replacements during each of the preceding five years were as follows:-

1955	...	32.
1954	...	37
1953	...	75
1952	...	54
1951	...	52.

RODENT CONTROL.

Statistics in respect of Rodent Control are shown in Appendix III.

REGISTRATIONS UNDER SECTION I OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Fifty premises are registered in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice cream and preserved food etc. Of these, forty are registered for the sale of ice cream and two are registered for both the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

From the ~~total~~ figures in Appendix VI of this report, it will be noted that the total number of food premises in the district is 200.

MILK.

The following table gives details of current registrations under The Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949.

Premises registered	Persons carrying on the trade of Milk Distributors elsewhere than at or from a Dairy Farm.		
Dairy premises other than Dairy Farm.	From shops in the St. Albans Rural District.	From premises within the St. Albans Rural District not being shop premises.	From premises outside the St. Albans Rural District.
11	5	5	9

The following tables give details of licences granted under the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

THE MILK(SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Tuberculin Tested"
5	9

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Pasteurised"	Dealers' licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"	Supplementary licences authorising the use of the Special Designation "Sterilised"
7	8	6	6

MEAT INSPECTION.

The slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep and pigs for human consumption is carried out at two licensed slaughterhouses and details of the total number of animals slaughtered thereat during the year and of the condemnations are given in the following table. A one hundred per cent inspection was maintained throughout.

I am indebted to Mr. R. E. C. Goddard, Chief Public Health Inspector, City of St. Albans and his staff for co-operating in these duties.

The slaughter of horses for human consumption is carried out at a licensed slaughterhouse at London Colney.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1956.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses.
Number killed	1786	183	673	3535	4650	75
Number inspected	1786	183	673	3535	4650	75
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	3	4	4	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	257	29	-	41	79	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci	14.45	16.39	.40	1.27	1.78	18.5
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	67	17	1	2	37	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected affected with tuberculosis	3.81	9.29	0.15	0.06	0.80	-
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	7	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	7	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Public Cleansing is carried out by direct labour. The work includes refuse collection, nightsoil collection and cesspool emptying.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse collection is carried out by three teams of collectors. Two of these teams operate with 25 cubic yards Dennis "Paxit Major" vehicles and the remaining team operates with a 19 cubic yards side-loading vehicle. The side-loading vehicle operates over the more sparsely populated parts of the district. Reserve vehicles are maintained to permit of regular servicing and to meet emergencies.

In June, 1955 an incentive bonus scheme was put into operation. It was introduced in the hope and belief that it would attract and hold a labour force sufficient to maintain a weekly refuse collection service and, in spite of some early difficulties, the scheme has operated successfully. It has made a once-weekly collection possible, has not increased the unit cost per collection, has ensured economy in transport costs because of the increased output per vehicle, has reduced overtime to a minimum and has discouraged absenteeism. At the beginning of the year, a collection was being made from 7,984 premises but, owing to building development, this had increased to 8,541 at the end of the year. Of 8,527 of these premises, the organisation was on the basis of a once-weekly collection and, in the case of the remaining fourteen premises, the organisation was on the basis of a once-fortnightly collection.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION.

Nightsoil emptying equipment is fitted to one of our Dennis cesspool emptiers and the work is carried out during normal daylight working hours with a driver-loader and one mate. The men engaged on it are paid a plus rate of one shilling per hour in respect of the hours engaged thereon.

Pails are cleansed at 170 dwelling houses. This figure shows a reduction of 110 or 39.29% compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1955 and a reduction of 311 or 64.66% compared with the figure at 31st December, 1951.

CLEANSING OF CESSPOOLS AND THE DISPOSAL OF CESSPOOL CONTENTS.

As will be noted from the statistical table in Appendix VII, the number of cesspools which were being cleansed by the Council at the 31st December, 1956 shows a reduction of 16 or 2.91% on the number at the 31st December, 1955.

With few exceptions, cesspool contents are discharged into sewers or at sewage disposal works.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID J. GRAHAM,

Senior Public Health Inspector.